

Questions and Answers

The following information provides you with answers to frequently asked questions and should be used only as a guide and not considered to be a legal authority.



How many gas stations are in the State or a county?

The Division of Measurement Standards works in conjunction with the California Energy Commission to develop a database of the gas station locations in California. The database is available on-line at the Energy Commission's website located at

http://www.energy.ca.gov/gasoline/gasoline_stations/index.html.



I just filled up my vehicle with gasoline or diesel fuel and now it pings/does not run right/quit running. What can I do?

The Division of Measurement Standards is responsible for enforcing the State's minimum quality standards for gasoline and diesel fuel as well as accurate quantity being delivered. Customers who experience problems after purchasing fuel should contact one of the [Division of Measurement Standards](#) office locations or call their [county office of weights and measures](#). The Division of Measurement Standards Weights and Measures [Consumer Complaint Form](#) is available on our website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/Forms.htm>.



I don't think I got all the gasoline/diesel fuel I paid for. How do I file a complaint?

Customers who feel they did not get the full amount should contact one of the [Division of Measurement Standards](#) office locations or call their [county office of weights and measures](#). A consumer's [Complaint Report Form](#) is available on our website by clicking on the link.



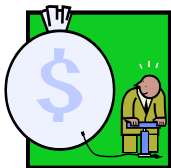
What does the octane number mean?

The [octane number](#) or antiknock index is a number that represents the ability of the gasoline to resist pinging or predetonation. The higher the number the greater the resistance. A higher number does not increase horsepower or increase performance in a properly tuned-up car.



Does a higher-octane gasoline make my car run better or increase its horsepower?

You should use the octane level fuel for your car that is recommended by the manufacturer. Purchasing a [higher-octane fuel](#) than the engine was designed to run on will not make it perform better or increase its horsepower.



Is there any real difference in gasoline brands or between major brands and independent brands?

Gasoline produced in California is regulated by both the Air Resources Board and the Division of Measurement Standards. All gasoline must meet the minimum standards established by these agencies. From that standpoint, all gasoline is virtually the same regarding performance, drivability, and air pollution emissions. Each producer of gasoline may add additional components within these basic standards that they feel enhances their product.